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Thursday, November 22, 2012



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Working the LBD

The right accessories will transform your standard little black dress into a glam holiday get-up, like this floral purse/LBD combo rocked by Emma Stone

PAGE 21



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Thursday, November 22,
2012

 News worth sharing.

Ottawa not too im-Presto

Hold ups. Metrolinx shells out \$3 million for latest Presto delay, City has until June 1 to decide whether to pull plug or continue


**ALEX
BOUTILIER**
alex.boutilier@metronews.ca

A further delay for Metrolinx's Presto smart-card system has cost the provincial Crown corporation an additional \$3 million in penalties.

Under a new arrangement revealed at Ottawa's transit committee Wednesday, Metrolinx will pay the city an additional \$3 million due to the latest — and perhaps last — delay.

That's on top of the between \$4 million and \$7 mil-

But will it work?

"We cannot afford to implement a system until we have the full confidence it's going to work."

Dianne Deans, transit committee chair

lion Metrolinx had already agreed to pay for failing to deliver the Presto system on time.

"We had some issues to address and they're fully cor-

rected now," said Bruce McCaug, Metrolinx's CEO.

"Right now, we're very confident the system is functioning the way it's supposed to function. And then the next

step is to put it out to more customers."

Presto-card readers were originally to be phased in last July. In June, the readers began crashing.

In a fall update, OC Transpo general manager John Manconi said he expected Presto to fully roll out in February.

That deadline has been pushed back again. Now Metrolinx will give out an extra 10,000 cards starting in

January. Manconi will make a recommendation to council in April whether or not to continue with the program.

If council pulls the plug, they'll get their money back from the \$81.1 million project. But the city will also be back at square one.

"We cannot afford to implement a system until we have the full confidence it's going to work," said Diane Deans, who chairs the transit committee.

Will Gaza ceasefire last?

That was the question after Israel and Hamas agreed to stop the fighting PAGE 8

Apps? No thanks

Despite the proliferation of smartphone tools, shoppers are largely snubbing apps this season, a new survey finds PAGE 9

O Christmas tree ornament

Your glamorous sheen delights us, and punches up our holiday decor PAGE 24



WE GOT GAME...

But no name yet. Ottawa's newest sports franchise is looking for suggestions from fans at basketballottawa.com. Officials announced the new team at a press conference at Scotiabank Place on Wednesday. Mayor Jim Watson sunk a basket and even tried spinning the ball on his finger. To Watson's right are Ottawa Senators president Cyril Leeder, Bruce Firestone, Bytown Sports president Gus Takkale and NBL president Ian McCarthy. For more on the announcement, see page 3. SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO



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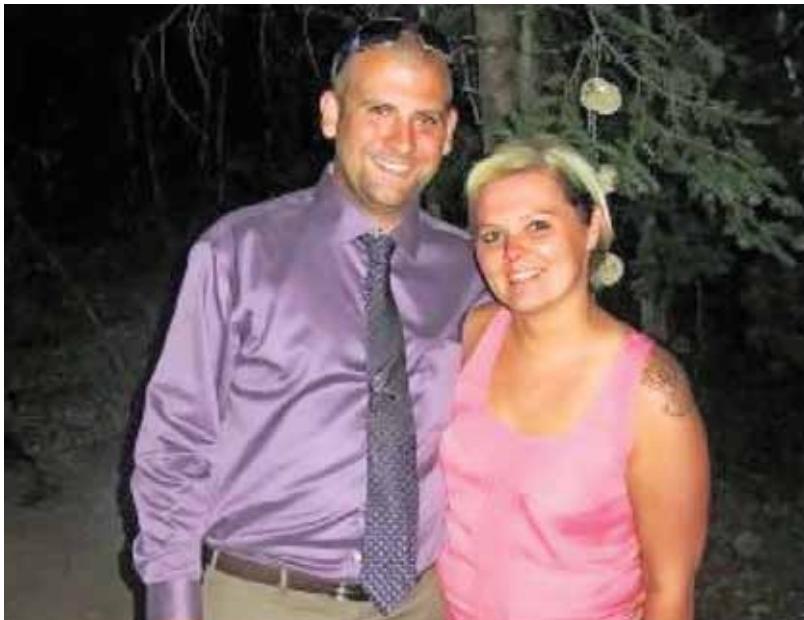
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NEWS

Ottawa woman, 26, missing in Los Angeles, police say



Ottawa police say Sarah Jane Stavenow, pictured here with her fiancé, Ryan Kearney, was reported missing on Monday after she landed in Los Angeles on Nov. 16 and lost contact with her family. CONTRIBUTED

Help. The woman's friend is asking anyone who knows her whereabouts to contact the police

An Ottawa family is hoping for the safe return of a local woman who went to Los Angeles on Nov. 16 and hasn't been seen since.

Sarah Jane Stavenow, 26, was reported missing Monday by her family after she never checked into her hotel once she landed, a close friend said.

Sarah Boyd told Metro she has been friends with Stavenow for the past seven years and it is very out of character for the missing girl to not keep in touch with family.

"There are a lot of emotions going on right now," said Boyd. "I'm definitely feeling the impact, but the family is feeling the most impact as well as her fiancé."

Boyd said Stavenow — who went to the L.A. on business

— texted her fiancé, Ryan Kearney, letting him know her plane landed.

"He had sent a text message back to her saying, 'Could you let me know when you've checked into the hotel once you're settled in?'" said Boyd. "After that he never heard a reply from her."

Boyd said Stavenow went to L.A. a month ago for a job interview and returned to Ottawa without a problem. She flew back on Friday to "check out the area to see if it was really something that she was looking to pursue," said Boyd.

Ottawa police said they are working with the Canada Border Services Agency and their U.S. counterparts to help locate her. Ottawa police Const. Henri Lanctot said CBSA confirmed to police she did not return to Canada.

Boyd is urging anyone with information on Stavenow's whereabouts or who noticed anything suspicious to contact police.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

Ottawa to get pro-basketball team

Pro basketball is coming to Ottawa.

Not NBA ball, but National Basketball League of Canada (NBL) basketball.

"This is going to be electrifying," said Bytown Sports president Gus Takkale, Wednesday during an announcement at Scotiabank Place, where the newly minted team is slated to play its inaugural 2013-2014 season.

Takkale, who also works as a motivational speaker, said he is passionate about basketball and said fans will be impressed with the quality of basketball played in the league. He said branding

and a team name will be revealed in January, a coach will be hired in the spring and a team with a full roster of players should be up and running by September, after a three-round draft in August.

"Today we celebrate the birth of hope," he said explaining that with a professional basketball franchise in town promising amateur players and their fans would no longer have to look outside the city for A-level basketball. "Today they have their own basketball team to cheer for."

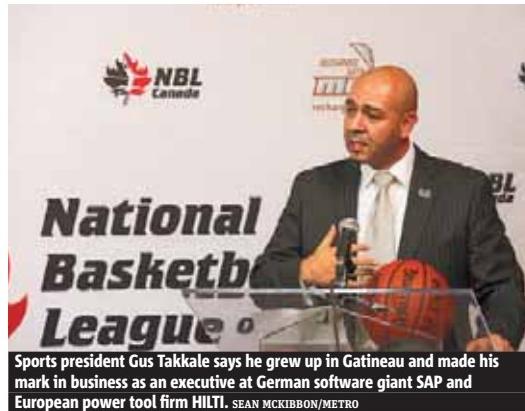
Takkale said he envisions a family of four being

able to enjoy a game for less than \$100. To break even his new team will need to sell 3,500-4500 seats per game, but given Ottawa's size and strong basketball tradition, he said he hopes to sell out an 8,000-seat court each game.

"I am confident about interest in basketball in Ottawa," said Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, noting the evidence plays out in courts around the city.

The NBL was launched in 2011 and has eight teams in Eastern Canadian cities that include Montreal, London and Halifax.

SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO



Correction

Due to a typographical error, a story about the new Hintonburg Hub health centre in Wednesday's edition incorrectly stated the number of residents officials hoped will be served by the new facility. The correct number is 1,100.

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the Bay

Labour battle fallout could take years to resolve: Experts



Unionized teachers protest outside the Ontario Liberals' annual general meeting in Ottawa in September. GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

Another strike threat.
Best CBAs are those negotiated, not imposed, says CUPE president as another union digs in heels

 GRAHAM LANKTREE
graham.lanktree@metronews.ca

The ongoing battle between teachers and the province over Bill 115 legislation may drag out for months or even years, experts said Wednesday after another union joined the fray with the threat of strike action.

"The possibility that another group of employees might go on strike will make it difficult to resolve this," said Michael Mac Neil, a labour-law

specialist with Carleton University's department of law, in response to an 88 per cent strike vote by CUPE school support staff Tuesday.

The union represents 55,000 school support staff, including library technicians, education assistants and janitors. "Our members have been invisible in this process," noted CUPE Ontario president Fred Hahn, adding the focus has been on negotiating with teachers and that strike action from his group could also cripple schools.

Like teachers who ramped up strike action in the past two weeks, Hahn said his workers also have to negotiate a deal under Bill 115, which imposes contract restrictions, such as a wage freeze and strike ban, making any deal they sign similar to one struck with provincial Catholic school boards.

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Investigation

Woman in stable condition after having arm caught in machinery

A woman's arm was caught in the drive belt of a trash-carrying conveyor belt at Ottawa's Spring Hill Road Waste and Recycling Facility Wednesday morning. The belt caught the 30-year-old's jacket and pulled her arm into the

gears causing abrasions and soft-tissue damage before staff were able to quickly shut down the machine.

Working with Ottawa Fire Services, the staff were able to untangle the woman's arm from the gears.

She is in stable condition in hospital after being treated by paramedics.

The Ottawa Police Service is now investigating the incident.

GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

Diesel shift

OC Transpo to switch out hybrids

OC Transpo will spend \$550,000 replacing hybrid engines with diesel engines to determine if they're more efficient.

The city's transportation committee approved \$550,000 in spending for the "pilot project," which will convert between four and five hybrid buses to regular diesel engines.

OC Transpo manager John Manconi explained to the committee that the hybrid buses were generating savings, just not enough savings.

Once the warranty on the hybrid-bus batteries runs out next year, it will cost the city \$1 million a year in maintenance costs.

"If the diesel conversion is the way to go from a cost-benefit analysis, customer bus use, and all those things, we'd go that way," said Manconi. ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO



Truck hits couple and baby crossing the street

An investigator photographs a stroller after a couple and a baby were struck by a truck while crossing the street near the intersection of Centrepointe and Tallwood Drives Wednesday morning. The couple, in their 60s, and a 16-month-old girl were rushed to hospital Wednesday morning after a pickup truck hit them, paramedics said. The infant, now in stable condition in the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario with minor scrapes and bruises, was being pushed in a stroller at the time. JOE LOFARO/METRO

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Homelessness. Alliance calls on city council to reconsider tax increase

The Alliance to End Homelessness (ATEH) made one final call on city council to hike taxes in the 2013 budget in order to save essential services that are needed by the city's poorest residents.

The draft budget proposes a 2.09 per cent tax increase and it is scheduled to be finalized Nov. 28.

Lynne Browne, ATEH executive director, wants a 2.2 per cent tax increase instead. Otherwise, she says, budget cuts will put pressure on affordable housing and increase applications to emergency shelter and social housing.

Browne said the city might blame the province for a \$2.5-million shortfall, but said the most vulnerable people should not bear the brunt of cost-saving measures.

If the budget is finalized as is, funding will be lost or reduced for essential services that are currently in place for low-income families, such as funeral services and respiratory supplies, she said.

"These are existing services. We're not asking for new



Alliance to End Homelessness executive director Lynne Browne speaks at a press conference Wednesday at the Ottawa Mission.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

services," said Browne.

"We're asking for what communities and governments have put in place in the past. So this is a loss for communities and I think it's important to lose no ground for anyone in the community."

JOE LOFARO/METRO



For more local news visit metronews.ca

Ladies Learning Code opens the tech game

Web development.

Women historically underrepresented in tech industry, says workshop organizer



GRAHAM LANKTREE

graham.lanktree@metronews.ca

Building a website from scratch can be intimidating if you don't know your way around HTML, but the sold-out Ladies Learning Code event this weekend shows women aren't afraid to take the plunge.

"I wanted to learn. I knew that I couldn't get by without these tech skills," said Nicole Belanger, the organizer of Ottawa's first Ladies Learning Code weekend workshop. "I've been trying to learn by myself. Historically women haven't been well represented in the tech industry. This event creates a friendly environment to rectify that."

Despite the name, anyone is welcome — this weekend's



A presenter speaks to women about the basics of HTML, CSS and JavaScript at the first Ladies Learning Code event in Toronto on Aug. 6, 2011. JON LIM /CONTRIBUTED

session has four men joining 46 women learning basic web development in HTML, CSS and JavaScript.

Belanger first learned about the Toronto program after researching web development for beginners online.

"I remembered seeing them on TV months and months before. It was clear they had become success-

ful in a short period of time. They were considering expanding to other cities and I said, 'I totally think there is a demand here in Ottawa.'"

Students will be put in groups of five and paired with one local instructor from organizations such as Shopify, which is hosting the event in its lounge space, Tinder Solutions Inc., which just won new business of the year at

the Ottawa Business Achievement Awards, and Algonquin College.

"We've had a tremendous response," she said, adding that the group will partner with Open Data Ottawa for another event in December. "We're here to stay."

Ladies Learning Code costs \$50 and runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Shopify lounge at 61A York St.



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Budget watchdog takes Tories to court

Matter of jurisdiction.
Budget officer taking on creators of his job over withheld figures

Canada's budget watchdog is taking the Harper government to court over its refusal to turn over information about austerity measures.

Parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page on Wednesday

filed a reference application with the Federal Court seeking a judgment affirming he has the jurisdiction to search for the information.

In a covering letter signed by Ottawa constitutional lawyer Joseph Magnet and Tolga Yalkin of the PBO, Page cites the "urgency" of resolving the issue quickly and proposes numerous dates for the hearing from Nov. 29 to Jan. 11.

The budget officer has complained for months that

Obstruction?

"They've done everything to shut down Kevin Page since he started in that job."

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair on the Conservative government

government departments have not been forthcoming with his requests on budget cuts, staff reductions and im-

pacts on services.

In response, the government said Page is overreaching and that his mandate is to examine government spending, not government restraint.

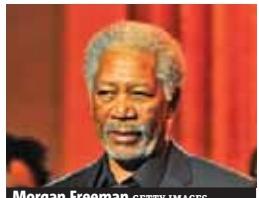
Opposition leaders said Page had no choice but go to court to perform his duty and accused the Conservatives of carrying out a vendetta against the budget officer, a position they created.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page has filed an application with the Federal Court to ensure he can get access to information. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Charity. Patrick Stewart, Morgan Freeman want you to wait for the beep



Morgan Freeman GETTY IMAGES

Imagine having William Shatner supply your outgoing-voice-mail message. Or maybe you'd prefer Morgan Freeman coolly telling callers to wait for the beep. Or perhaps having Betty White joke around is more your speed.

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The advocacy group Autism Speaks is offering custom-recorded messages from those celebrities as well as Will Ferrell, Carrie Fisher, Tom Hanks, Derek Jeter, Leonard Nimoy, Patrick Stewart and Ed Asner.

From Dec. 3 to 9, a limited number of 20-second-long MP3 messages will be recorded by each celebrity on a first-come, first-served basis for fans to do with as they wish. All requests must be of the PG

variety.

Asner, the curmudgeonly Emmy Award-winner of The Mary Tyler Moore Show and Lou Grant, dreamed up the fundraiser with his son Matt, who works for Autism Speaks.

"I think people will get a charge out of it," says Asner. "I'll probably say, 'What are you wearing?' Or, 'Take it off.' Something like that."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spills and shills

Liberal critic calls Tories lackeys for Big Oil, resigns

Ottawa MP David McGuinty abruptly resigned as the Liberal party's natural-resources critic Wednesday after suggesting Conservative MPs from Alberta are shills for the oil industry and should go home.

His statements capped a day in which Liberals scrambled to contain the damage from his remarks, which came just days before a byelection in Calgary, where the Liberals have high hopes for an upset.

"I would like to unreservedly and unequivocally apologize for comments which I made with respect to parliamentary colleagues from the province of Alberta," said McGuinty, who is the brother of Premier Dalton McGuinty.

Conservatives, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, pounced on McGuinty's comments, accusing the Liberals of long-standing bias against Alberta. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Online privacy

Facebook mulls an end to brush with democracy

Facebook is proposing to end its practice of letting users vote on changes to its privacy policies.

The world's biggest social-media company said in a blog post Wednesday that its voting mechanism, which is triggered only if enough people comment on proposed changes, has become a system that emphasizes quantity of responses over quality of discussion. Users tend to leave one or two-word comments objecting to changes instead of more in-depth responses.

As part of the 2009 policy, users' votes only count if more than 30 per cent of all Facebook's active users partake. That did not happen during either of the two times users voted and it's unlikely that it will now, given that more than 300 million people would have to participate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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It's a Gaza deal ... after 1,500 air strikes and 1,500 rocket attacks

The question. Can two bitter foes, Israel and Hamas, make the ceasefire hold?

Will it last?

That was the question being asked in Israel and Gaza on Wednesday as a ceasefire was forged after an incredible two days of intense shuttle diplomacy.

"I just hope they commit to peace," said Abdel-Nasser al-Tom, from northern Gaza.

Despite the fears, joy broke out like an explosion.

Cheering Gazans emerged from their homes after a week, flooding the streets in wild celebration.

Gunmen fired in the air, and chants of "God is Great" echoed from mosque loudspeakers.

Residents hugged and kissed in celebration, while others distributed candy and waved Hamas flags.

Israel and the Hamas mil-

Morsi's moment

- The ceasefire deal marks a startling trajectory for the mediator — Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi.
- New role. The man who refused to talk to the Israelis or even say the country's name finally turned himself into Israel's protector.

iant group agreed to the ceasefire Wednesday after eight days of the fiercest fighting in nearly four years.

They promised to halt air strikes and rocket attacks that have killed scores and to ease an Israeli blockade constricting the Gaza Strip.

The truce will "improve conditions for the people of Gaza and provide security for the people of Israel," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in Cairo.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



In this image taken from Egyptian state television, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton shakes hands with Egypt's foreign minister, Mohammed Kamel Amr, in Cairo after the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas was announced. Clinton shuttled across the region to help end the fighting. EGYPTIAN STATE TELEVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baird speaks out

Hamas and Israel? It's not complex

There has been nothing complicated about the conflict between Israel and Hamas, says Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird (pictured).

"It's not a complex issue," he said as a ceasefire was declared.

"You have a terrorist group launching rockets against Israel."

But the broader question of Mideast peace is far more complicated, he stressed, adding he's "cautiously optimistic" about the ceasefire.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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"You have a terrorist group launching rockets against Israel."

But the broader question of Mideast peace is far more complicated, he stressed, adding he's "cautiously optimistic" about the ceasefire.

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Holiday shoppers aren't yet keen on apps, survey finds

Retailing. Mobile discount-hunting can give buyers an edge, but it's slow to catch on in Canada

Smartphones can scan bar-codes and offer real-time discounts but most Canadians won't bother using apps while shopping this holiday season, a new survey suggests.

About 70 per cent of those surveyed weren't planning to use a mobile application or feature to help buy gifts, according to the results of a poll commissioned by wireless carrier Mobilicity.

Smartphone apps can give users notifications of what discounts are being offered in a mall and at what stores, said Anthony Booth, Mobilicity's chief customer officer.

"The real astute users are the people who have figured out how to take advantage of things in real time by using their smartphone," Booth said

from Toronto.

Black Friday, the day after U.S. Thanksgiving, has come to Canada and generally marks the beginning of the holiday shopping season. Apps such as TGI Black Friday and Black Friday Deals and Coupons allows smartphone users to search from thousands of discounts.

Booth said even though Canadians do a lot of online research and price comparison, app adoption is about a year behind the United States. He expects more uptake by Canadians in 2013.

Marta Tryshak, creator of lifestyle and fashion website

Quoted

"(Holidays) are the times when you have to have a strategy when it comes to shopping, otherwise you will be overwhelmed."

Marta Tryshak, lifestyle and fashion blogger, who says using her smartphone to check prices is a must during the busy shopping season

WithLoveGabrielle.com, has been using her smartphone for four years to find the best prices and said it's a must for Black Friday and other holiday shopping.

"Those are the times when you have to have a strategy when it comes to shopping, otherwise you will be overwhelmed," said 24-year-old Tryshak. "There's

no better way to do so than just checking on your phone. You never know what you will find in a store, so you can't lug along your laptop."

The online survey of 1,514 Canadians by Leger Marketing has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Prepaid Visa. RBC drops expiry dates, most fees ahead of new regulations

Canada's largest banking group has dropped expiry dates and most of the fees on its prepaid Visa cards in the wake of Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announcing plans to introduce new rules for the cards.

RBC Royal Bank said Wednesday it will continue to charge a one-time flat fee of \$3.95 to issue the prepaid card but all the money loaded will remain available to make purchases. Its prepaid cards will continue to show an expiry date but a new card can be requested at no charge if a balance remains after that date.

Flaherty said last month that the government believes it's not appropriate for consumers to lose money if a gift card expires after a period of time.

Prepaid peril

- Prepaid credit cards have come under fire for exorbitant hidden fees that reduce their face value. These can include monthly or annual fees, maintenance costs, as well as ATM charges.

He said the government wants better disclosure of the terms of conditions of prepaid credit cards.

RBC said there will be no usage, maintenance nor inactivity fees for its prepaid cards, which come in denominations ranging from \$25 to \$500.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Switching to iPhones

Another U.S. agency stops using BlackBerrys

BlackBerry smartphones are being dropped by the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board in favour of the new iPhone 5, with "performance issues" cited as the reason.

The Washington-based board, the latest American government agency to turn

away from the BlackBerry, said it needs reliable devices for its employees to investigate accidents, often in remote locations.

"These Apple devices will replace the NTSB's existing BlackBerry devices, which have been failing both at inopportune times and at an unacceptable rate," the board said in a recent document. Research In Motion has lost several other U.S. departments and agencies as clients.

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Last gunman from Mumbai attacks executed in secrecy

26-11. Hanging sparks celebrations for some, offers closure for others

India executed the lone surviving gunman from the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks early Wednesday, four years after Pakistani gunmen blazed through India's financial capital, killing 166 people over three days and throwing relations between the nuclear-armed neighbours into a tailspin.

Mohammed Ajmal Kasab, a Pakistani citizen, was hung in secrecy at a jail in Pune, a city near Mumbai, after Indian President Pranab Mukherjee rejected his plea for clemency.

News of the execution was widely cheered in India, with political parties organizing public celebrations and some people setting off firecrackers. But for those more deeply touched by the events of 26-



An activist sets a poster of Mohammed Ajmal Kasab ablaze.
RAFIG MAGBOOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

11, as the attack is known in India, the hanging offered only a partial catharsis.

"This is an incomplete justice as the masterminds and main handlers of 26-11 are still absconding," said Kavita Karkare, the widow of Hemant Karkare, the chief of Mumbai's anti-terrorism squad who was killed while pursuing Kasab. "They should also be hanged."

Indian officials accuse Pak-

istan's intelligence agency of working with the militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba to plan the attack — an allegation Islamabad denies.

India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars since they were carved out of British India in 1947, suspended peace talks after the Mumbai attack.

Since 2011, the two countries have rekindled the peace talks, but New Delhi's frustration with Pakistan's failure to bring those responsible for the attack to justice has complicated those efforts.

The attacks were also a major embarrassment for India's security establishment, which failed to stop a small group of gunmen who entered Mumbai on a dinghy from running roughshod over the police and elite security forces for three days.

Some in India felt Kasab should have been hanged publicly. Others complained that the government had spent

too much money on the care and feeding of a vilified criminal and said that for justice to be done, the attack's masterminds — not just their foot soldier — must be punished.

Mukesh Agarwal, who was shot in his right arm during the attack, called Kasab's execution "the best possible gift" from the Indian government. But he said "instead of secretly hanging him, the government should have hanged him publicly."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Members of the Bharatiya Janata Party dance in Mumbai on Wednesday as they celebrate the news of Mohammed Ajmal Kasab's execution. RAFIG MAGBOOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Recounting the carnage

Kasab was one of nine gunmen who entered Mumbai on Nov. 26, 2008, killing 166.

- The attack.** Armed with phones, grenades and automatic weapons, the gunmen fanned out across the city, targeting luxury hotels, a Jewish centre, a restaurant and a crowded train station.

- Infamous gunman.** A photo of Kasab striding through Mumbai's train station with rifle in hand became an iconic image of the siege.

- Brought to justice.** An Indian judge sentenced Kasab to death in May 2010 for war against India, murder, terrorism and other charges.



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World carbon emissions still too high

Fossil fuels. UN report comes ahead of major climate conference

A UN report on rising greenhouse-gas emissions reminded world governments Wednesday that their efforts to fight climate change are far from enough to meet their goal of limiting global warming to 2 C.

The report by the UN En-

vironment Program, released just days ahead of a major climate conference, said the concentration of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is up about 20 per cent since 2000.

Scientists say those emissions are contributing to climate change and that failure to contain them could have dangerous consequences, including rising sea levels inundating coastal cities, dramatic shifts in rainfall disrupting

Quoted

"A transition to a low-carbon, inclusive Green Economy is happening far too slowly."

UNEP executive director Achim Steiner

agriculture and drinking water, the spread of diseases and the extinction of species.

Emissions levels, driven by the burning of fossil fuels,

need to come down by 14 per cent by 2020 for the world to reach a pathway that could keep the global temperature rise below 2 C, compared with pre-industrial levels, UNEP said. That's the stated goal of UN climate negotiations, which resume next week in Doha, Qatar.

But it won't happen if countries don't come ahead with more ambitious plans than what's currently on the table. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Steam and smoke rise from a coal-burning power plant in Germany.

MARTIN MEISSNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reproductive health

Fewer abortions may be due to increase in birth control

U.S. abortions fell 5 per cent during the recession and its aftermath in the biggest one-year decrease in at least a decade, perhaps because women are more careful to use birth control when times are tough, researchers say.

The decline, detailed on Wednesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, came in 2009, the most recent year for which statistics are available. Both the number of abortions and the abortion rate dropped by the same percentage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Church rift

Failure to approve female bishops raises hell in the U.K.

The Church of England has some explaining to do following its failure to vote to let women serve as bishops, its leader said Wednesday, and politicians from the prime minister downward are already demanding action or answers.

The governing General Synod blocked the change as the vote among lay members on Tuesday fell short of the required two-thirds majority. Bishops and clergy, in separate votes, overwhelmingly backed the proposal.

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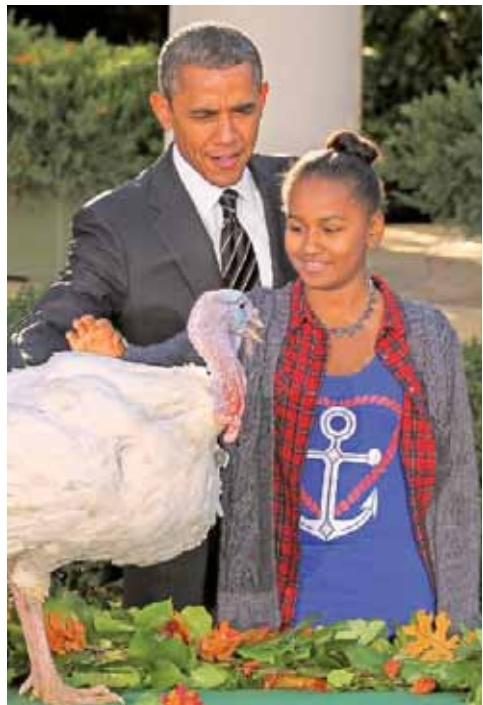
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First Family meets Cobbler

U.S. President Barack Obama and daughter Sasha Obama pet the 2012 National Thanksgiving Turkey Cobbler during a turkey pardon event on Wednesday at the White House in Washington, DC. **GETTY IMAGES**



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Radiation-proofed robot may help at meltdown site

Japan. Toshiba's new four-legged machine was designed to go into tsunami-crippled Fukushima plant

Toshiba Corp. unveiled a robot Wednesday that the company says can withstand high radiation and help in nuclear disasters. But it remains unclear what exactly the new machine will be capable of doing if and when it gets the go-ahead to enter Japan's crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

The four-legged robot can climb over debris and venture into radiated areas off-limits to human workers. One significant innovation, Toshiba said, is that its wireless network can be controlled in high radiation,

automatically seeking better transmission when reception becomes weak.

But the machine, which looks like an ice cooler on wobbly metal legs, also appears prone to glitches. The robot took a jerky misstep during a demonstration to reporters, freezing with one leg up in the air. It had to be lifted by several people and rebooted.

It was also notably slow in climbing a flight of eight steps, cautiously lifting its legs one by one, and taking about a minute to go up each step.

With obstacles that aren't as even and predictable as steps, such as the debris at the plant, it may need as much as 10 minutes to figure out how to clear the object. Toshiba acknowledged. And if it ever falls, it will not be able to get up on its own.

Still, Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) said it might use

Robotics technology

- Japan boasts some of the world's most sophisticated robotics technology, exemplified in the walking, talking human-shaped Asimo robot from Honda Motor Co. The inability of such delicate gadgetry to help out with the Fukushima disaster was widely criticized.

the robot to inspect the suppression chamber of the Fukushima plant, where a devastating meltdown took place after a mammoth tsunami slammed into northeastern Japan on March 11, 2011.

Toshiba began developing the robot after the disaster with hopes it would prove useful in helping to decommission the

plant. No human has been able to enter the highly radiated chamber since the tsunami disaster. "We need this to go in and first check what is there," said Toshiba senior manager Goro Yanase.

Toshiba's Yanase said the new robot, which has a dosimeter to measure radiation and six cameras, can stay in a 100 millisievert environment for about a year and can tolerate even higher radiated areas for shorter periods. At 100 millisieverts, the rise in cancer cases caused by radiation becomes statistically detectable, although even lower-dose radiation is not advisable for people.

The suppression chamber was 360 millisieverts the last time it was measured, TEPCO said. Decommissioning Fukushima Dai-ichi is expected to take decades.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Toshiba's nuclear-inspection robot climbs stairs during a demonstration at a factory west of Tokyo on Wednesday. The robot can venture into radiated areas off-limits to human workers. ITSUO INOUYE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Nova Scotia. Proposed law would allow wine imports to cross borders

Nova Scotia wine drinkers would be able to import wine from other parts of Canada under provincial legislation proposed Wednesday.

Finance Minister Maureen MacDonald says changes to Nova Scotia's regulations follows a recent decision by the federal government to lift its ban on wine importation. If the legislation becomes law, Nova Scotia would join British Columbia and Manitoba as the

only provinces to allow direct importation.

MacDonald will write to her counterparts in other provinces to encourage them to make similar changes. She says the removal of provincial barriers would provide a growth opportunity for Nova Scotia's 18 wineries.

Nova Scotia hit \$13.3 million in wine sales in 2011, a 65 per cent increase from 2001.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NHL COMMISSIONER GETS CANDID



HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

What follows is an exclusive, in-good-faith "marathon" interview with Gary Bettman, commissioner of the National Hockey League.

While it's true the commissioner has been talking to other media throughout the NHL lockout, Mr. Bettman told me some exclusive things — things so striking and unexpected that he may deny ever having talked to me, or, indeed, having heard of me.

NHL insiders say that, using the logic of contract negotiations, his refusal to acknowledge my existence is a sign our talk went well.

He Says: Mr. Bettman, let's drop the gloves. What can the league do to win back fans after this lockout, which everybody outside of the players and owners believes was unnecessary and wrong?

Bettman: Well, we're very fortunate to have great fans in Canada that have nothing else to do in the winter that isn't illegal. As for Americans, they haven't noticed yet that we've been gone. So don't tell them, OK?

He Says: Don't you think this cavalier attitude will only reinforce Canadians' belief that you don't care about the fans, delivering a Raffi Torres-like check to the head to our national game?

Bettman: Well, first of all, I don't know what a Raffi Torres is, but let me say that I'm confident the fans will be back.

He Says: How can you be so sure?

Bettman: If you read news reports from after the last lockout, you see headlines like: "Hockey: Does anyone still care?" next to headlines like, "Maple Leafs' second-unit penalty kill needs tweaking or heads will roll."

He Says: I see your point. But the NHL game was, before The Lockout: Part 2, at the height of its popularity. The hockey was faster, the women behind the benches were hotter, and mentions in late-night comedy monologues were at an all-time low. How did you kill all that momentum?

Bettman: You have to understand that there's been a huge philosophical divide between each side.

He Says: I noticed that in the various proposals. The players said the repeating lockout was an example of Nietzsche's eternal recurrence, while you adhered to the deconstructionism of Jacques Derrida, refusing to make whole.

Bettman: We spent one meeting talking about whether contract negotiations really mean anything in a cold, uncaring universe. We found a lot of common ground there. But that's not what I meant. What I meant is that we have a different attitude than the players, because we don't care what people think of us.

He Says: That's refreshingly honest.

Bettman: The players will always be at a disadvantage in contract negotiations, because they're heroes betraying their fans. But the management don't have to be heroes. No Canadian kid says, "I want to be an owner." Or commissioner. Keep it under your helmet, but I'm not very popular.

He Says: Your secret's safe with me. I want to thank you for your candour, Mr. Bettman. And remember, keep your stick on the ice.

Bettman: I'm sorry, what?

He Says: Uh, just forget it.



NHL commissioner Gary Bettman sits down to talk with He Says regarding the lockout. CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Choo-choo-chocolatey express



YVES LOGGHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World record

Longest chocolate structure rolls into Brussels

Commuters take pictures of the world's longest chocolate structure as it is displayed at Brussels Midi train station on Wednesday.

The train, which took 784 hours of labour to create, measures 34.05 metres (111 feet) in total length and was prepared with 1,285 kilograms (2,832 pounds) of Belgian chocolate and was built by master chocolatier Andrew Farrugia from Malta.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's as long as...

Let's see what else compares to the 111 feet of chocolatey heaven.

- NBA basketball court.** An NBA basketball court is just a smidgen shorter than the train, measuring 94 feet long.
- Baseball diamond.** The distance between each base in a baseball diamond is 90 feet.
- The Mayflower.** The ship that transported English and Dutch Separatists to Massachusetts was 100 feet long, slightly shorter than the chocolatey train.
- Chocolate bar.** The longest chocolate bar was measured at 15.9 metres (52 feet) long and 2.03 metres (6.7 feet) wide in Bologna, Italy, in 2011.

Culinary concoctions

It's a sweet time to be a world-record holder. Here's some other culinary concoctions that have set world records recently.

- Cream cake.** Chefs in Switzerland took the title for the longest cake ever — a whopping 1,200 metres (3,937 feet) of sugar, flour and cream in November 2012. That's more than a kilometre of cake!

Calorie counting

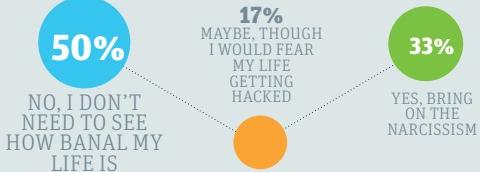
6.5M

The model train packs an impressive 6.5 million calories. But the train isn't the largest chocolate structure in the world. That title goes to a California bakery that built a massive Mayan temple out of the dark sweet that weighs three times as much as the train.



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@DalSpot:

Ottawa is getting an NBL team to start next season! I love that basketball is growing in Canada!

@c_9:

What's that? I have extra time I can use up by riding Ottawa's O-Train back and forth? OKAY!

@mallorydaley:

Dear grocery stores in downtown Ottawa, why do you never have ripe avocados? How's a girl to

whip up a last minute guacamole without them?

@SmoothElias:

Ottawa U has by far the worst toilet paper in the world. I mean, it's not even two ply! Wtf!

@SammyJane15:

My frugality has resulted in a stay at 1 of Ottawa's premier nursing homes. The schedule has carols & coffee at 4. My room smells like death.

Sex, samosas and a girl's tale of personal discovery

Hot novel. Ottawa writer tackles the topic of the struggle between old-world culture and western views on sexuality



BACKSTAGE
PASS
Jen Traplin
ottawa@metronews.ca

When it comes to sex, local author Jasmine Aziz certainly doesn't shy away from the topic.

In fact, the self-described "poster child for masturbation" has penned a novel on that very subject.

The protagonist in *Sex and Samosas* is Leena — a happily-married 32-year-old South Asian woman who has never had an orgasm.

She goes to an adult vibrator party, gets drunk and buys some toys. Each chapter after that is a subsequent misadventure of personal discovery.

Aziz says *Sex and Samosas* isn't just about sex — it's ultimately about balance.

"She needs to find balance between her mother's culture and the old-world traditional ways of thinking and the one that she was brought up in North America."

The author was inspired to write the novel after going through a bad breakup coupled with an eye-opening experience at work.

"I used to sell vibrators at those types of parties and I noticed that women were not as quick to be open and hon-

est with each other. I was in a long-term relationship that went sour, and one of the parties that I did right after that was a Bollywood bachelorette party," she explains.

"I ended up getting on my soapbox and started to rant. There were 16 beautiful South Asian women, all second generation, just like me.

"That night, the sales were extremely high, and they opened up to me, and I started to see that I'm not alone."

After that party, Aziz began to write *Sex and Samosas* as a way to take a harder look at the topic of sex when you grow up in two cultures. She refers to the novel now as a sort of self-help book with erotic content.

After shopping *Sex and Samosas* around to a few publishers, Aziz ultimately decided to publish the book herself, taking three years to whittle the original novel down to a reasonable 280 pages from roughly 1,300.

Now, a year after its release, Aziz has high hopes for *Sex and Samosas* — she wants to see it turned into a movie.

"My Big, Fat, Greek Wedding with vibrators," she says.

And the author has already started work on the second novel — a personal memoir from the four years Aziz sold sex toys.

Buy it

For a list of stores here in Ottawa where you can buy Jasmine Aziz's novel, *Sex and Samosas*, visit jasmineaziz.com.



Jasmine Aziz would love to see her novel *Sex and Samosas* turned into a film. HANDOUT

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Singer Aimee Mann has turned to an AM radio hit for inspiration on her new album. GETTY IMAGES

SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 20

SHOPPERS
DRUG MART

Mann details the less than charmed life indie musicians live

New album. Aimee Mann reveals unique inspiration behind latest effort and the struggles facing modern artists

The musical inspiration for Aimee Mann's latest disc may come as a surprise. It certainly did for Larry Lee.

Mann's Charmer hearkens back to the pop-rock structures of her 1990s discs Whatever and I'm With Stupid, and ultimately even further, to radio-friendly hits from 30 and 40 years ago. That's her pop music, not the kind made by Taylor Swift, Beyoncé or Katy Perry. In fact, she zeroed in on one song in particular: Jackie Blue, a 1975 hit by the Ozark Mountain Daredevils.

"To me, that's the perfect pop song and was kind of the

Music videos

Two videos for Charmer give Mann the chance to display her humour

Big names. Jon Hamm and humorists Tom Scharpling and Jon Wurster appear in the video for Labrador. It shows Mann tricked into remaking the video for Voices Carry, her 1985 hit.

touchstone for the whole record," said Mann, who's 52. "In fact, there are certain songs (on Charmer) where it's basically a homage to that song."

Charmer, which debuted at No. 33 on Billboard's 200 albums chart in September, is not a concept album, but Mann finds discs that are more than a collection of un-

related songs more satisfying to the artist and listener.

Mann went through record company nightmares early in her career, and now makes music on her own label, SuperEgo. That doesn't make her immune to the industry's problems. She said many fans can't see the connection between illegally downloading music and the struggles of their favourite artists.

"If I don't have enough money to make another album, I can't make another album," she said. "That's how it goes. You can't think about it. Am I suddenly going to appeal to people's consciences and make them not steal music? If you don't like it, great, then I can understand you not buying it. But if you like it and end up stealing it, then I just think you're a jerk. Of all the people to steal from. Musicians? Really?"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Lindsay Lohan. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Lohan regrets nothing, could be facing more jail time

Lindsay Lohan has no regrets, she insists, despite the legal and family problems that have plagued her and impacted her career.

"I want to be known as an actress, not a troubled starlet," Lohan tells Us Weekly during a lengthy sit-down interview.

"(I regret) nothing, because then I wouldn't have been able to cry in scenes at the drop of a hat."

I have a tattoo, Live without regrets. I'm not

saying I wanted to go to a jail cell, but I've drawn from it."

Well, she might have even more to draw from soon.

It looks like she'll have her probation revoked for lying to police after a summer fender-bender, according to TMZ, and that could lead to more jail time for Lohan.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Rihanna finally makes appearance on 777-tour

THE WORD

Katarina Matsson
scene@metronews.ca

Rihanna's 777 Tour has taken its toll on journalists and fans who followed the star around the globe.

After a week, their frustration exploded. Constant delays and lack of sleep (those on board had to crash whenever and wherever they had a chance: on coaches, on board the plane or on a floor) and not knowing when the next opportunity to eat and drink would materialize, are circumstances most would endure with joy — if only the main subject of the whole trip would show herself offstage.

After mounting criticism spread like a wildfire online — that's the risk you take when you invite 150 journalists — Rihanna yesterday showed herself on the plane.

Rihanna, can you sum up the tour for us?

Rock and roll, true friends, press who really want to know the dirt, rarely got any dirt cause I had to be good. I had to be good this time. We would have had a 333 tour if I wasn't good. I wouldn't have lasted. I still sound like s—t right now, but tonight is the last s—t so we are going all the way. No mercy, that's what I mean. I'm gonna put all my energy into this one show.

Wearing dark sunglasses, she appeared 10 minutes before the plane was due to land after the last leg. She even came close to offering an apology.

"I didn't get to spend as much time as I'd originally planned with you guys. I think you are tired as well, but I wanna now improve so I'm gonna come and sit here with you guys. And thank you everybody for making this trip the s—t," she told the journalists.

What was the hardest part of the tour?

The hardest part? I guess trying to balance being a hostess and a performer. I'm supposed to do my show and then shut the f—k up until the next show. Because the two hours we have to fly that's when I can sleep, but I really wanted to hang out and interact with everybody and give everybody my time. So I guess that was difficult.

Twitter



@tyrbanks

Remember ladies: U don't need a KING to be a QUEEN!



@Pink

Wait til ya'll see how much weight I can gain in one meal



@ElizabethHurley

How many of my female followers wear skirts/dresses by day? Press events aside, I wear jeans or pants every day without exception #curious



@SarahKSilverman

Trying to feel okay about picking up my tofurky thanksgiving meal for 1



Justin Bieber

Oprah dishes out dating advice for Justin Bieber

While Justin Bieber may still be making attempts to win back ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez, at least one influential personality thinks he should cool it — and maybe revise his previously stated plans to be married by 25, too.

"I think 25 is too young, actually, I really do — particularly for you," Oprah Winfrey told Bieber after investigators found no evidence that the pop star had kicked and punched a photographer after leaving a movie theatre last month, a document obtained Wednesday states.

particularly because of the business that you're in (where there's) not a lot of self-discovery time because so much is already defined for you."

In other news, prosecutors decided not to file

any charges against Bieber after investigators found no evidence that the pop star had kicked and punched a

photographer after leaving a movie theatre last month,

a document obtained Wednesday states.

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**SHOPPERS
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A la mode in many ways: The black short-sleeved dress from H&M (\$49.95) on the left is seen accompanied respectively by a Vince fur vest from Holt Renfrew (\$1,975), grey cardigan from Topshop at the Bay (\$100) and a black jacket with faux-leather sleeves from Dynamite (\$49.90). AARON VINCENT ELKAIM / THE CANADIAN PRESS

3
TIEE

A dress fit for four fêtes

Deck the holidays. No need to break the bank on several new outfits as you navigate the social circuit this season

Whether you're heading to cocktails, the office bash or a family gathering, a few fashionable additions can add some oomph to your festive wardrobe.

"As much as we know that we've got lots of different parties on our calendar for the holidays, we don't always have to necessarily buy four different outfits," said Julia Cyboran, editor-in-chief of Loulou magazine. "It's all about how you style one main piece."

THE STAPLE PIECE

Cyboran said the little black dress is the wardrobe essential for any holiday look. That's likely music to the ears of cost-conscious fashionistas who may already have an LBD tucked away in their closet or

Bling it on

Trying to select several eye-catching add-ons to amp up your party attire?

- **Step in style.** In the case of those seeking a little lift, Julia Cyboran said the pointy-toed pump that dominated the fashion runways is emerging as a standout on the market.
- **In the bag.** Cyboran said the solid, structured pillbox clutch will remain a style standout for the holidays, but expect to see envelope clutches in the hands of

women heading out on the town.

- **Making a statement.** Bigger is better when it comes to statement jewelry, with large-scale earrings and necklaces among the holiday accessory offerings. While rose gold hit the market last spring, Cyboran said it started to surface a little last winter in watches, belts and earrings, as did chocolate-coloured gold, and both colours have remained a part of the accessory landscape.

are able to scout out a new, affordable option.

The seemingly season-less style staple has a chameleon-like ability to transform from upscale chic to laid back casual.

Selecting the right style with its own intricate details such as pleating, embellished sleeves and a flattering silhouette can ensure it can work as a

stand-alone garment, Cyboran noted.

Going for glam

Looking to add a little luxe to your holiday look? Cyboran said teaming your dress with a faux fur topper along with some shimmering sequined booties can instantly infuse a glam touch.



Julia Cyboran, editor-in-chief of Loulou magazine, selected this black-and-gold clutch from BCBG (\$190), and Envelope clutch from Forever 21 (\$19.80) to highlight the season's key trends. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Comfort casual

Heading to cottage country or settling in at home for a more low-key holiday celebration? Cyboran suggests taking a robust, comfy warm knit worn with a belt over the dress, along with a pair of slouchy, low-cut boots for a more casual ensemble.

Office party chic

If you're pressed for time and need to make a wardrobe quick-change for the office shindig, Cyboran said a blazer with faux leather detailing partnered with a pair of pumps can easily help translate your outfit for after-hours.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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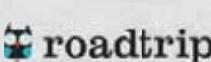
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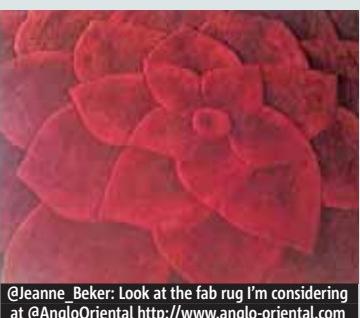
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@Jeanne_Beker: With the bold+beautiful plus-size bloggers @AddionElls launch of @EDITbyJeanneB



@Jeanne_Beker: Look at the fab rug I'm considering at @AngloOriental <http://www.anglo-oriental.com>



@Jeanne_Beker: Rob Lowe, hosting @pgawards just butchered my name. But hey, he's damn cute.

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Vancouver

Michelle Yu

Stylist at Holt Renfrew

Age: 28

What she's wearing

Gifted flannel jacket, Proenza Schouler bag, Alden Ray and Birds of a Feather accessories, River Island skirt, Michael Kors Boots, Club Monaco socks

Her inspiration

"Cold weather and this warm flannel jacket I stole from my little brother."

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EDIT BY JEANNE BEKER

The Holiday Sale

A collection of must-have items hand-picked by Jeanne Beker

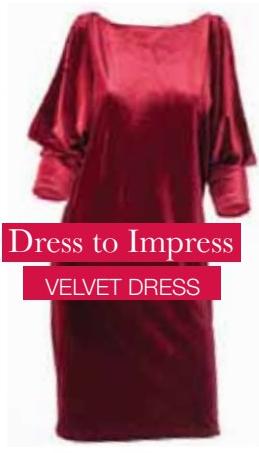
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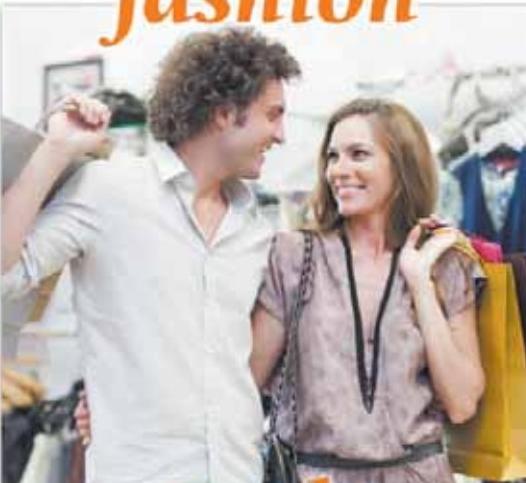
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Three big holiday decor trends



DESIGN
CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Each year we see new colours being introduced to Christmas decor, as if the ornaments we use every year won't suffice.

Holiday decor usually follows suit with fashion or home decor, and this year it's easier than ever to update your holiday decorations and have a trend-setting home for the holidays.

Consider taking a few good holiday standards and adding a twist in order to make your home trend-worthy this year.

Use old ornaments

Colour block old ornaments into a concentrated area — display in a crystal bowl, use on a staircase garland, string on a garland across a window, decorate a spare room or donate to a local shelter. Do this three to four weeks before the holidays to give them time to enjoy.



Glitter Wreath: Mixing gold and silver is all of a sudden OK for holiday decorating this year. CRATEANDBARREL.COM

Glam with rustic

We've always been told never to mix the precious metals when decorating — mixing silver and gold has always been a faux pas. Silver has topped the list for sometime now. This year, we are taking the warm and cool metal tones and blending them to help create a more humble look. Using them in a rich, formal setting would be too much formality. Using them in a farmhouse or rustic setting helps add understated glam to a space.



Got some outdated trend colours from years past? Group them together and display in a guest room. SUPPLIED

Add a Punch

Wake up the predictable red-gold-green colour combination by adding a shot of cobalt blue or black to the room, it will give the colour scheme a sense of importance with the shot of darkness. A lot of dark brown entered Christmas decor a few years ago, stemming from the trends in home decor furniture. The brown feels a bit predictable, but when mixed with warm gold and a shot of fuchsia or purple, it can take us back to retro-Halston '70s.



Blown glass ornament: Grey ornaments help to create a sophisticated, cool vibe. URBANBARN.COM

Shades of Grey

Various neutral colours come and go in holiday decor — there's been taupe, black, sage and the ever popular cream colours. This year, look to inject a bit of inspiration coming from fashion. Grey is the new neutral and helps to make our homes take on a cool air of sophistication during the holidays. Team it with fresh greens, golds and citron for a punchy holiday decor. I suggest using this colour as an accent so not to over spend. Grey is the hot neutral this year, but most likely will not have longevity.

Finding the greenest Christmas tree

What's greener, a real or artificial Christmas tree?
—Minnie of Vancouver



QUEEN
OF GREEN
Tovah Paglaro
green@metronews.ca

Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree, how green is your carbon footprint? The question about the greenest Christmas tree has been one of considerable debate among environmentally conscious merry-makers for the past decade.

Both sides have made valid points: advocates of artificial trees take issue with the practice of cutting down trees in the name of festivity, whereas proponents of real trees argue that it's pretty much impossible for a plastic alternative to be green.

The research team at Ellipsos has provided a definitive answer. In its study, the real tree emerges victorious.

According to Ellipsos, the artificial tree has three times more impact on climate change and resource depletion than the natural tree. That's assuming your artificial tree lasts six years. If your tree will last more than 20 years and if you'd have to drive a long way to buy a real tree, the opposite becomes



If you're set on buying a real Christmas tree, consider cutting your own tree from lands that must be clear anyway — a win-win. ISTOCK IMAGES

true.

Regardless of whether you choose real or artificial, there are ways to make sure your evergreen is truly green:

Real Christmas Trees

1. Buy locally.
2. Choose trees from farms that minimize (or do without) pesticides and herbicides.
3. Cut your own with a provincial permit, from lands that must be kept clear anyway. In many provinces, hydro right-of-ways have to be kept clear. This is a win-win way to meet that mandate.

Artificial Christmas Trees

1. Avoid PVCs — the grinchiest of plastics — that most artificial trees are made of. Not only are these hard on the environment,

they're bad for your health.

2. Make it last 20 years!

Should neither of these options live up to your desire for a truly sustainable celebration, consider a living Christmas tree. Potted evergreens are just as festive as their cut counterparts! And the recent appearance of rental companies dealing in potted evergreens makes this a hassle-free option even for folks who forgot to dig their tree a hole before the ground froze.

Next Thursday, we'll talk green strategies to decorate that green Christmas tree.

Have questions for the Queen of Green? Write to tpaglaro@davidsuzuki.org or tweet @DavidSuzukiQoG



Holidays

Time to get your dishes ready!

Dear Mr. Butler,
With both American Thanksgiving and Christmas on the horizon, what can I do to deal with some of my chipped antique dishes to get ready for the holidays?
—Signed, Holiday Lady

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

What an organized woman you are. Good on you for thinking ahead.

First, you need to know how many people you will be entertaining over the holidays. Will you be having sit down meals or simpler cocktail party gatherings?

Once you know what kind of entertaining you will be doing and how many people you'll be hosting, look through your cupboards to see what you have and what you may want to use.

With your inventory in hand, you now need to find some retailers who specialize in selling single pieces of antique china.

Some cities have great antique markets. For the rest of us who either don't have these antique stores handy or can't



Determine what kind of entertaining you will be doing this season before stocking up on inventory. ISTOCK IMAGES

find the pieces we need, there are some great online solutions.

I have found three companies that may be able to help you out, and I have used one of them in particular with great success.

The three most popular companies for china replacements are: replacements.com, chinalane.com and patternsearch.ca.

Remember, these are generally expensive. These sites are a great way to replace one or two broken items like a

chipped coffee cup or cracked plate.

But if you plan to purchase an entire inventory, this is by far the most expensive route and one that I would not advise.

Here's a tip!

Remember, anything you have not used in the past year should have a quick wash with hot water and dish soap to get rid of any dust before you use it.



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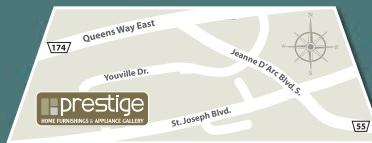


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Don't be fooled – not all doughnuts are created equal

Lemon doughnuts generally involve fried dough filled with sticky, tart-sweet yellow goo that tastes more of sugar than of serious lemon.

So here is a way to truly reinvent the lemon doughnut as a baked treat that is at once lighter and more deliciously lemony.

All you have to do is start with a golden cake-style baked doughnut, which is then flecked with the potent flavour of real lemon zest. You finish by topping the doughnuts with a simple powdered sugar-lemon

juice glaze. The result is wonderful.

1. Heat the oven to 425 F.
2. Coat 2 doughnut pans with baking spray; you can use pans designed for either large or small doughnuts. A mini doughnut pan will bake more quickly.

3. In a medium bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the butter, oil, packed brown sugar, granulated sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt, vanilla extract and lemon zest. Beat

in the eggs, one at a time, scraping the bowl between additions.

4. Stir in half the flour followed by half the buttermilk, then the remaining flour and finally the remaining buttermilk.

5. Spoon the batter into the prepared pans, filling the doughnut wells to about 1/4 inch from the top. If using a mini doughnut pan, you will need to bake in multiple batches.

6. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes, or until golden and cooked through. Allow to cool in the pan for 10 minutes before turning out onto a rack.

7. To make the glaze, simply stir together the lemon juice and powdered sugar. Dip the tops of the doughnuts in the glaze and allow them to set or enjoy immediately.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



These delicious doughnuts are baked. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

12 portions
Start to finish: 45 minutes

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, room temperature
- 1/4 cup vegetable or canola oil
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 2 eggs
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 1 cup powdered sugar



Cookie Dough Truffles. A delicious twist on tradition

1. Line baking sheets with parchment paper. In bowl, cream butter and sugar using electric mixer until mixture is light and fluffy, for about 1-2 minutes. Stir in the vanilla and then mix in the graham cracker crumbs, oats and salt. Once it's all combined, add in the sweetened condensed milk, mixing well. Lastly, stir in the chocolate chips

2. Freeze dough 30 minutes. When ready, roll dough into 1-inch (2.5 cm) balls and freeze 30 minutes.

3. Dip cookie dough balls into melted chocolate to cover, allowing excess chocolate to drip off. Return to baking sheet and chill in refrigerator or freezer until set. Serve cold. NEWS CANADA/ROBINHOD.CA

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) oats
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt
- 1 can (300 ml) sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup (250 ml) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 1/2 lbs (680 g) milk, white or dark chocolate, melted

Cookbook of the Week

Pick up, munch and repeat



Forget the fork and spoon, because the 100 desserts in Abigail Johnson Dodge's Mini Treats & Hand-Held Sweets can be devoured without. Dodge whisks together step-by-step baking instructions for a sweet-shop sampler of treats. No-fail recipes for sugary delights (along with delicious drizzles and favourite toppings) abound in this collection. Among the portable treats in Mini Treats & Hand-Held Sweets are Triple Threat Chocolate Squares, Toasted Coconut Snowball Cupcakes, Cinnamon Toast Scones, Frozen Chocolate Papaya Wedges and more.

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Instant coffee is good in a mug but works wonders for dinner

While instant coffee is not everyone's favourite jolt to wake up to, it can effortlessly add tons of depth and flavour at the dinner table.

1. In a blender, combine the bourbon, brown sugar, coffee granules, soy sauce, garlic and ginger. Purée until smooth, then transfer to a large zip-close plastic bag. Add the steak tips to the bag, close the bag, then turn to coat the meat with the marinade. Refrigerate at least 1 hour and up to overnight.

2. When ready, heat the broiler with an oven rack 6 inches from the heat. Re-

Ingredients

- 1 cup bourbon
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup instant coffee granules
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 4 cloves garlic
- 1-inch chunk fresh ginger
- 2 pounds sirloin steak tips
- 3 large yellow onions, chopped



This recipe serves four. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

move the steak tips from the bag. Add the onions to the bag, close, then turn to coat. Transfer the onions and the marinade to a large roasting pan.

3. Set the onions under the broiler and cook for 3 to 4 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat, set the steak tips over the onions, then return to the broiler. Broil for 5 to 6 minutes,

then turn the tips and broil for another 5 to 6 minutes. Let the meat rest for several minutes, then serve with onions spooned over them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cornbread-Stuffing Mushrooms. An attractive appetizer



1. Heat the oven to 350 F.

2. Arrange mushrooms on a rimmed baking sheet, gill sides up. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, then roast for 15 minutes.

3. In skillet over medium-high heat, melt butter. Add onion and leek and sauté until tender, 8 minutes. Add carrot, celery, thyme and rosemary and cook until tender, about 5 minutes. Remove pan from the heat and gently fold in the cornbread.

4. When the mushrooms are done, pour any liquid that has collected on the rimmed baking sheet into the cornbread mixture. If the mixture is dry, sprinkle in a bit of vegetable broth. Gently mix. Spoon the

mixture into the mushroom caps and return to the oven. Bake for 20 minutes, or until lightly browned on top.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 8 large portobello mushroom caps
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 medium leek, green and white parts, sliced
- 1 medium carrot, grated
- 1 celery stalk, finely diced
- 1 tbsp chopped thyme
- 2 tsp chopped rosemary
- 2 cups diced cornbread
- Vegetable broth, as needed

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SPECIAL INFORMATION FEATURE

Aging gracefully

New heights. Innis & Gunn continues to go against the grain with its oak-aged beer



JEFF
O'REILLY
For Metro

When it comes to finding your niche and running with it, few have done it as well as Innis & Gunn, taking oak-aging beers to unbelievable new heights.

It was discovered by accident when William Grant & Sons contracted master brewer Dougal Gunn Sharp to brew a malty ale to be aged in oak casks in hopes of later using these barrels to age whisky while imparting those beer flavours in a new "Cask Ale Reserved Whisky."

The whisky was a hit, but it was months before anyone actually tried the oak-aged beer they were previously throwing out, discovering that it had a taste like no other. That was more than a decade ago, and Innis & Gunn Original has not only become Canada's bestselling imported ale, but it has continued to explore the furthest reaches of oak-aging possibilities, which is nicely showcased in its holiday gift package.

The gift package showcases its Original Ale with newcomers Winter Treacle Porter and Spiced Rum, along with a handy tasting glass. The holiday gift package includes Innis & Gunn brand ambassadors Peter Allison (Edinburgh) and Robin Gregory (Toronto) to not only review their new seasonal releases, but also to have the rare pleasure of tast-

Contest

- Innis & Gunn tips its hat to those gregarious men and women who proudly serve beers by inviting them to take part in its new "Bartender's Choice" contest. Innis & Gunn has invited "purveyors of pints" to send in their ideas in a "What wood you brew?" type of competition. The winner will collaborate with master brewer Dougal Gunn Sharp to brew a fall 2013 specially packaged beer that will include their own signature along with the brewmasters on every label. For more, see Facebook, or on Twitter #innisandgunnbt, or #bartenderschoice.

ing and comparing both the oak-aged and "un-oak-aged" Original Ale. I was completely blown away by the difference.

"Un-oaked," the beer is a very nice malty Scottish brown ale or extra special bitter — well-balanced and quite nice on its own. But after 77 days of maturing in oak barrels, there were previously unseen flavours of vanilla, toffee, sweet fruits, and oak with a real depth of character — completely reinventing the beer and really turning this into a spectacular new experience.

Innis & Gunn Winter Treacle Porter (7.4 per cent alcohol by volume, part of 3 x 355ml holiday gift pack,



Kourtney raises a pint of Innis & Gunn Original Ale, which is on tap at Sir John A's Pub on Elgin Street.

JEFF O'REILLY/FOR METRO

\$14.95 LCBO) pours a deep, ruby colour with a nice, tight tan head. The nose is powerful with big sweet fruit, ripe banana, chocolate, molasses, roasted malts and toffee. The flavours start off with rich molasses and a slightly smoky oak moving into a full malt backbone showing figs, chocolate, nuts, brown sugar and hints of vanilla

near the end.

The body is surprisingly light, especially considering the alcohol content, which shows up near the end of each sip, and highly carbonated for a porter, but it is a solid complex brew that leaves a pleasant, slightly oily, lingering finish. An excellent winter warmer.

This beer was inspired by

a recipe found in the nearly century-old book *A Scots Cellar* by F. Marion McNeill, which used treacle (molasses) as part of the brew.

While the recipe was suitably adjusted, it is great to see that in finding inspiration — both new and old — the flavours coming from Innis & Gunn are more fun than a barrel of monkeys.

Time for Beaujolais



IF I HAD \$100 ...
TO SPEND
AT VINTAGES



JULIE
STOCK
For Metro

"Le Beaujolais Nouveau est arrivé!" Remember to pick up some Nouveau Beaujolais the third Thursday of every November. Below are some of the wines you can try from this Saturday's Vintages release.

Ewald Gruner Hundspoint Gruner Veltner 2011, Austria (LCBO #298299, \$17.95)

White liquid gold, fresh and crisp — great to marry with an asparagus quiche.

Featherstone Rosé 2011, Canada (LCBO #117861, \$14.95)

Cranberry coloured, slightly off dry, ripe, red berry flavours to remind you of summer strawberries.

Villa Ponciago La Réserve Fleurie 2011, France (LCBO #299917, \$21.95)

Pale purple in colour, blackberry and blueberry flavours but with lovely acidity.

Ruffino Serelle Vin Santo Del Chianti 2008, Italy (LCBO #1008, \$24.95)

A rich, amber-coloured dessert wine — think apricots and caramel and perfect for biscotti dipping or with some old cheddar.

Howling Moon Old Vine Zinfandel 2009, U.S. (LCBO #57356, \$18.95)

Deep, luscious purple, big aromas of vibrant berries and sheer velvet on the palate.

GRAND TOTAL: \$98.75

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Clam Jam will aid women's charities

SAMANTHA
EVERTS
For Metro

Eight of the city's best female chefs will combine forces Sunday (National Elimination of Violence Against Women Day) to take over local bistro Union 613 for the inaugural Clam Jam.

The seven-course meal has been organized by Union 613 chef Sarah Allen, who invited friends and colleagues who she admires to help local women's charities.

Allen has wanted to host an event like this for a while. "You get all these ideas and you don't do them, but it took off after I shot my mouth off on Facebook."

It is a rare occasion for there to be more than one female chef present, Allen explained. "I can't think of any other time that (this) many women (were) in the kitchen together."

She was thrilled at the re-



Sarah Allen, a chef at Union 613, has organized the inaugural Clam Jam event with fellow female chefs to benefit local women's charities. The event will be held Sunday at Union 613 (315 Somerset St. W.).

SAMANTHA EVERTS/FOR METRO

sponse. Participating chefs include Patricia Larkin of Black Cat Bistro to Karen Ishii of Zen Kitchen.

"We have such a great mix of different styles of cooking and personalities. I'm super excited," Allen said.

While the official menu remains a surprise, the event's theme is childhood.

"One canapé plays on ants on a log," Allen said.

As each dish comes out the chef will explain the memory

behind it. "You're seeing the stories," Allen said. "Some of the girls' childhood dishes are nothing like what I grew up with."

The first monthly event will benefit Harmony House.

"It's not a girls-only event; it's just in support of women."

A silent auction of restaurant gift certificates will also take place. Tickets can be reserved through Union 613 (315 Somerset St. W.) or at union613.ca.

Wine. Holiday party ideas



SEASONAL
SIPS
Allyson Bycraft
For Metro

Heading out to a holiday party? Here are a couple of crowd pleasers to bring along.

Mulderbosch Sauvignon Blanc 2011 (\$18.95, LCBO #933424)

If your circle of friends enjoys a good New Zea-

land Sauvignon Blanc, try this South African version of the herbaceous, dry white style from a producer that makes a specialty of this grape variety. Available at Vintages Saturday.

Peter Lehmann The Futures Shiraz 2008 (\$24.95, LCBO #60670)

Shiraz from Australia's Barossa Valley is welcome at any

party. The LCBO General List Peter Lehmann Barossa Shiraz is justifiably popular, and this bottling, The Futures, at just a few dollars more, is sure to be a hit as well. It has plenty of spicy, plummy, dark fruit flavours that will match well with any holiday baking the party host may have on hand, too. Available at Vintages Saturday.

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Black Friday madness may cost you your sanity: Is it worth all the hype?

Shop till you drop. Each year, more Canadians join the melee and flock to the States for the shopping extravaganza, and this time round The Bay, amazon.ca, Gap and Toys R Us will join in north of the border

KATHY ULLYOTT
life@metronews.ca

Stampedes. Pepper-spray attacks on fellow shoppers. Store employees trampled, crushed and even killed.

Accounts of mall mayhem on Black Friday — the day after Thanksgiving in the U.S., when merchants offer deep discounts on everything from skis to sandwich grills — have become part of retail lore. And although such incidents are rare, midnight store openings, across-the-parking-lot lineups and unbelievable deals have become as iconic of American Thanksgiving as pumpkin pie and pilgrim outfits.

Each year, more Canadians join the Black Friday fray — the moniker reflects the fact that it puts retailers “in the black” for the year. Statistics Canada says 4.2 million Canadians travelled to the U.S. last November, presumably to shop. This year, stores in Canada, including The Bay, amazon.ca, Gap and Toys R Us are all trumpeting Black Friday specials.

Still, Sally Ritchie, vice president of communications and marketing for the



Do you want to shop in this? Black Friday is one of the busiest shopping days in the U.S. and it's getting more popular in Canada with major retail stores joining in and offering bargains. GETTY IMAGES

Retail Council of Canada says Canadians aren't entranced with cross-border door-busting. “Our polling data shows that only six per cent of people in British Columbia and five per cent of Ontarians plan to travel to the U.S. for Black Friday,” Ritchie says; 94 per cent of Canadians will be staying in Canada.

So for most Canadians, it seems, the question

isn't, “Where does the line start?,” but, “What the heck?”

Well, obviously, there are the deals. “It can be thrilling to get a key item for a really good price,” says Sarah Kutulakos, an American now living in Canada. “And there's the social aspect, the ritual. You have Thanksgiving dinner with family and friends, then you all get up early

on Friday to go shopping.” (Note: Kutulakos admits she doesn't go in for lining up herself.)

But more subtle psychology may be at work as well. Aparna Labroo, a consumer psychologist and the Patricia C. Ellison Professor of Marketing at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, points out that people want things more when they ap-

pear scarce. Deep discounts, offering those savings for a limited time and making only a few of those products available (to, say, the first 100 customers) are all ways retailers “manipulate scarcity cues” — in other words, motivate consumers.

Enough to pitch a tent in an overnight lineup? Maybe. “People actually infer value (of a product) from the effort they put

Black Friday facts

- Camping out.** Last year, a couple in Florida camped out on the sidewalk in front of a Best Buy for 12 days in order to be the first in line for Black Friday sales.
- Buy Nothing Day.** Twenty years ago, Buy Nothing Day was created as an anti-consumerism alternative to Black Friday.
- Holiday cheer?** Ninety per cent of Black Friday shoppers will be buying goods for themselves.
- Online.** Sixteen per cent of Canadians will buy goods online from U.S. retailers on Black Friday.
- Cyber Monday.** The term has become an international marketing term used by online retailers in the U.K., Portugal, Germany and Chile.
- Turnout.** The National Retail Federation anticipates 134 million people will hit the stores this Thanksgiving weekend.

into getting that product,” says Labroo.

In other words, having to line up is — for some shoppers — not only not a deterrent, it's proof that what they want is worth lining up for. “The many people present, all waiting, can heighten the sense of scarcity.”

And, apparently, the need for a \$38 Blu-ray player.



If you want to get out there and shop till you drop, best that you get the lowdown on survival. GETTY IMAGES

Decided to risk a Black Friday spree? Stay safe out there!

The Black Friday shopper's emergency first-aid kit

- Rolls of gauze.** Extremely compact and light, yet strong enough to tie your trunk down, or a 42-inch television to the top of your car.
- Adhesive bandages.** For credit-card blisters or paper cuts from coupons and flyers.
- Finger splints.** Entering your debit-card PIN repeatedly can cause carpal tunnel syndrome.
- Caffeine pills.** Sure, there might be a Tim's close enough for an emergency

run, but do you really want to risk your place in line?

- Acetaminophen.** Even if you're not headache-prone, loudspeaker announcements and other shoppers yelling at their kids/into their phones/at line-cutters can take a toll.
- Scotch in a hip flask.** In case all else fails.

Want the deals without the lines? Cyber Monday is a stressless alternative. And with a smartphone, you don't need to be at a computer, or even at home, you can do your shopping on your morning commute. A few great apps:

- Black Friday Shopping** ([blackfriday.com](#), free): Get breaking Black-Friday ads, link directly to 1,200 top retailers and get cash-back coupons
- My Christmas List** (99 cents): Plan gifts for everybody on your list; set and stick to a budget; keep track of spending; compare prices and share your lists
- Price Check Guru** (free): Enter any item to find the lowest online price and connect directly to that retailer to buy
- PayPal** (free): Get pay for your purchases immediately without having to enter your credit card info every time.

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Parade-worthy

Holiday kick-off

Since the late 19th Century, the day after Thanksgiving has been seen as the kick-off to Christmas shopping.

Department stores such as Macy's and Eaton's began hosting parades to launch the start of the first wave of Christmas advertisements. The first official parade was Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City in 1924.

'Tis the season

Retailers appeal to Roosevelt

In 1939, retailers appealed to President Franklin D. Roosevelt to move Thanksgiving up by one week to stretch out the holiday shopping season.

It stayed this way for two years, until Congress stepped in and settled on Thanksgiving being the fourth Thursday of the month.

Market panic

Taking stock

The term Black Friday was first used in 1864 to describe the stock market panic set off by plunging gold prices. Though it's hard to confirm when it was first used to describe the shopping frenzy, most point to 1966, when the Philadelphia police department referred to it as Black Friday, describing the massive traffic jams and crowded sidewalks.

Set your alarm

Wake up! It's time to shop til you drop

In the '90s, retailers began opening their doors at 6 a.m., but in the late 2000s many had crept to as early as 5 a.m. or even 4 a.m.

By last year, several retailers opened at midnight for the first time.

Shopping SOS

Going mad in the name of a bargain: It's happened

In last year's frenzy, a worker at a Walmart in New York was trampled to death when the store opened its doors and two shoppers were shot in a dispute at a Toys R Us in California.

Cyber Monday

With the click of a mouse, you can find a deal

With online shopping surging, there's now a Cyber Monday, the Monday after Black Friday.

Coined in 2005 by Shop.org, Cyber Monday sees millions of people spending billions of dollars through online deals.

Five things not to buy on Black Friday. As a general rule, avoid these items

Some sales aren't worth taking advantage of on Black Friday. ISTOCK IMAGE

MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News in Philadelphia

Toys

Unless you want to ruin your daughter's life forever, scoop up that McKenna American Girl doll right away. But your average toy? Lindsay Sakraida, features director at Dealnews.com, says to hold off. "We see quite a few fairly decent toy deals, but things will get cheaper later in December," she says. "Unless it's a really hot item that you're after, wait for them to get cheaper in the two weeks before Christmas."

Name-brand electronics

TVs, digital cameras and laptops are huge Black Friday draws, but it's not necessarily the time to buy one. The generic brand TV that the big-box store is offering is, likely, a huge bargain, says Sakraida. But anything name brand — Sony, Samsung, Canon, etc. — will see its best price in the first couple months of 2013, right before the latest models hit shelves. The exceptions are Apple

products, says Sakraida. They don't usually go on sale, so take advantage of any promotion if you were planning to buy them this year.

Winter apparel

If you're shopping for yourself, wait. "You'll see a lot of good coupons — but if you're looking for something like a heavy down winter coat, you'll see a better price in January," says Sakraida.

Holiday decor

"When it comes to Christmas decorations, these are things they're hoping you'll just grab while you're out," says Sakraida.

"Wait until it's closer to Christmas to get a better price."

Jewelry and watches

If you're shopping for gifts, go ahead and buy these on Black Friday. But if you're looking for yourself, wait until after the holidays to buy jewelry or watches, says Sakraida. These are popular gifts, so retailers aren't offering their best deals.

But use good judgment while you're at it.

Don't get caught in the frenzy and spend money erratically just because you find discounts

MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News in Philadelphia

Black Friday is a delicate balancing act between scoring as many great deals as possible and not turning into a crazed shopping Grinch. It's not a day for amateurs, so we hit up Dana Holmes, editor-in-chief of Gifts.com, for some expert tips on saving money and sanity.

Buy thoughtful gifts, not cheap stuff

It's hard to say no to a great sale, but don't just buy cashmere scarves because they're half-off for another hour. "Remember that a great deal isn't always a great gift," says Holmes. "Make sure you have a list of who you're shopping for, a budget for each person and some ideas for each person. I like to put some adjectives next to their names along with some of their favourite stores to stay focused."

Keep your receipts

You will make impulse buys that you regret — it's part of the day. "Keep a zippered pouch in your purse to keep your designated Black Friday receipts," advises Holmes. "You don't want to misplace any — you're buying a lot of stuff, you're excited and when you get home you may realize you don't want all of it."



Black Friday should be a silly and fun way to kick off the holiday season. Don't overdo it. ISTOCK IMAGE

Quoted

"There will be lines, parking will be tough, things will run out — you have to enjoy it for it to be worth it."

Dana Holmes, editor-in-chief, Gifts.com

commodity right now." Not to mention, it's nice to have company in the parking-garage traffic — because oh, yes, that is a thing that happens.

Cross-check for online deals

Some deals, such as door-

busters, are strictly in-store offers. But increasingly, retailers are offering the same sales online with plenty of perks. "If you see something you like, check it out on your phone — sometimes it can actually be just as cheap to buy it online, get it shipped and get it gift-wrapped for free," says Holmes. "Then you don't have to lug it around all day."

Don't fake being an early bird

Ultimately, Black Friday should be a silly, fun way to kick off the holiday season. If waiting in the dark for your favourite store's doors to open isn't your idea of fun, sleep

in and skip the door-buster deals. "It's more about the camaraderie — it's for a special kind of person who really enjoys that," says Holmes of the 5 a.m. openings. "Everybody else, just go when you want. There will be lines, parking will be tough, things will run out — you have to enjoy it for it to be worth it."

Gift-list assist

Before you make your list and check it twice, head on over to Gifts.com and take the gift personality quiz. It can help you figure out what to buy for your picky fashionista sister before you melt down at the Cinnabon stand.

On your mark, get set, go ... shopping wild

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NHLPA submits offer but sides 'still far apart'

Lockout. Union moves toward league in revenue sharing as talks resume in New York

The NHL and NHL Players' Association finally seem to be speaking the same language, but they still have a gap to bridge in negotiations on a collective bargaining agreement.

The union tabled a comprehensive proposal Wednesday that generated a tepid

response from the NHL. However, commissioner Gary Bettman acknowledged the six-page offer was a step in the right direction and the document appeared to offer a path forward in talks, with the sides now envisioning the same type of economic system.

"There was some movement in our direction and it was appreciated," said Bettman. "We're still far apart. But hopefully there's some momentum so we can bring this to a conclusion."

The union proposed a 50-

50 split of revenues during the five-year deal along with \$393 million US in deferred make-whole payments throughout. Two weeks ago, the league offered \$211 million and a 50-50 split.

NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr acknowledged that his constituents are anxious to end the lockout and indicated that the new offer is "about as good" as the players are willing to make.

"(The players) are suffering right along with the fans," said Fehr. "We made an enormous

move in the owners' direction to try and end it — at least as of today that hasn't been successful."

Until now, the union had been pushing for a system that would see players paid a fixed amount of revenue each season rather than receiving a percentage of it. However, the new offer included some safeguards to ensure they'd be protected in the event league revenues stalled, including a clause that states the players' share can't drop from year to year. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

CFL

Argos coach doesn't want players to score ... until game day

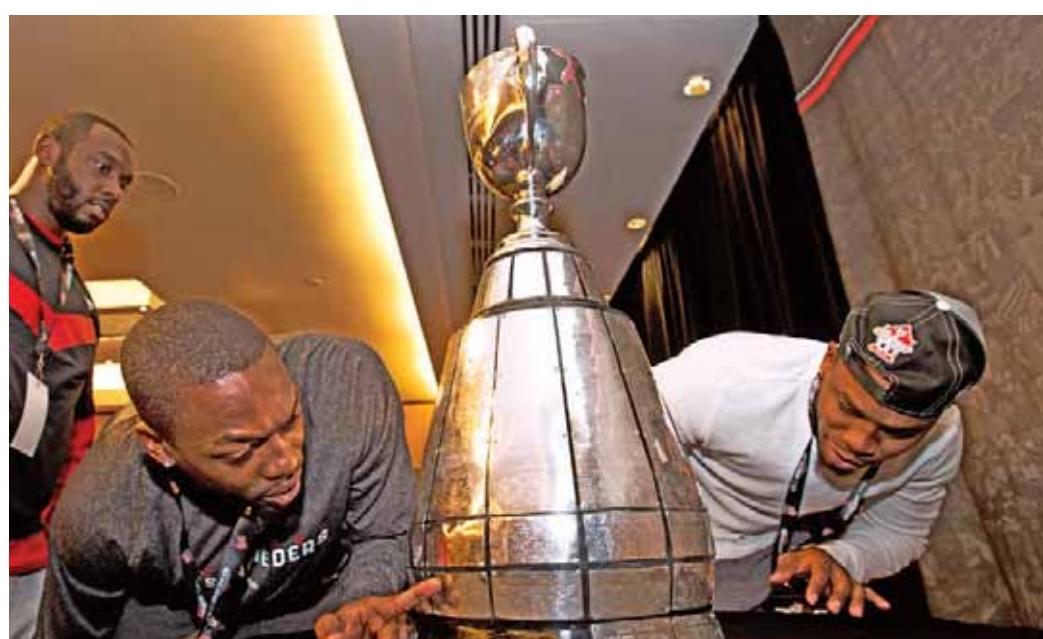
Scott Milanovich wants the Toronto Argonauts to control their libido during Grey Cup week.

The Argos rookie head coach says he doesn't want his players scoring off the field prior to the big game. Toronto takes on the Calgary Stampeders for the CFL championship Sunday at Rogers Centre.

But he also has a personal reason for taking this approach.

"I have two young daughters at home right now that are probably watching this press conference, so my take on it is going to be 'I believe in abstinence,'" Milanovich said Wednesday, answering what has become the traditional last question of the Grey Cup coaches' news conference.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Stampeders get acquainted with cup

Calgary Stampeders teammates Fred Bennett, left, and Chris Randle have a close look at the Grey Cup during the West Division champions media lunch in Toronto on Wednesday. **NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Skiing. Alpine Canada looking for ways to include Vonn in men's race

The president of Alpine Canada hasn't given up on Lindsey Vonn racing men at Lake Louise, Alta.

The first time might not be in a World Cup race, though.



Lindsey Vonn GETTY IMAGES FILE

Max Gartner says he's been talking to Vonn's sponsor Red Bull.

"We're working on some plans, but we do hope this will happen down the road," Gartner said. "We do hope it will happen in Lake Louise."

Vonn asked FIS, the world governing body of skiing, if she could race in the men's World Cup downhill and super-G this weekend at Lake Louise. The reigning Olympic champion has 11 World Cup victories and 17 podiums in total.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Olympics

Trial set for alleged bottle thrower

A man accused of throwing a plastic bottle onto the track seconds before the men's 100-metre final at the London Olympics will go on trial in January.

Ashley Gill-Webb pleaded not guilty at Thames Magistrates Court on Wednesday to using threatening words or behaviour with intent to cause harassment, alarm or distress.

The 34-year-old man was granted conditional bail and ordered to stand trial in east London on Jan. 3.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB. Buehrle gets in two cents on way out of Miami

Mark Buehrle issued a parting shot at Miami Marlins management after his stay with the team lasted only one tumultuous season.

The left-hander, who signed a four-year contract a year ago, was part of the blockbuster trade that also sent all-star shortstop Jose Reyes, right-hander Josh Johnson and two other players to the Toronto Blue Jays. With the deal, the Marlins pared \$146.5 million US in future payroll.

"I'm upset with how things turned out in Miami," Buehrle said in a statement issued Wednesday

Quoted

"Just like the fans in South Florida, I was lied to on multiple occasions."

New Blue Jays left-hander Mark Buehrle in a statement issued Wednesday



day through his agent, Jeff Berry. "But I'm putting it behind me and looking forward to moving on with my career."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yet to be resolved

Contracts could still be sticking point

There is also ground to cover on contract issues.

The NHLPA offer included a rule that would punish teams who sign players to long-term, back-diving contracts — something the league has identified as an important issue. It also called for players making more than \$1 million US in the minors to have their salary count against the cap.

The union chose not adopt the NHL's proposed changes to unrestricted free agency, entry-level deals and salary arbitration.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Grinnell's Jack Taylor goes to the basket during Tuesday's game, in which he scored 138 points, in Grinnell, Iowa. CORY HALL/GRINNELL COLLEGE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Sir Jack' talk of hoops world after 138-point game

NCAA. NBAers abuzz after 'video-game'-like outburst in Division III

How did Grinnell's Jack Taylor wind up with 138 points in a game?

Well, he did miss 56 shots, more than he made. And he didn't play for four minutes.

Otherwise he would have scored even more.

As it was, Taylor shattered the NCAA scoring record by 25 points Tuesday in the Pioneers' 179-104 victory over Faith Baptist Bible in Grinnell, Iowa.

Taylor hoisted a mind-boggling 108 shots, one every 20 seconds. Layups, fadeaways and three-pointers (27 of those) were all working in a display that had NBA royalty buzzing.

"It's like a video game," Carmelo Anthony said. "How can you shoot 108 times?"

LeBron James added: "It's

unbelievable, honestly. There's two games that I would love to see: One was Wilt, when he had 100, and this kid, I want to see him, too, Sir Jack."

Wilt Chamberlin's record of 100 points scored in 1962 still stands as the NBA mark.

Taylor himself was still trying to catch his breath Wednesday.

"Honestly, it's still not settling in. It was hard to sleep," Taylor told The Associated Press.

Understandably so. Taylor is just a five-foot-10, 170-pound sophomore from Black River Falls, Wis. How did he score more points than anyone in college history?

Well, he had 58 at halftime. And then he scored 30 more in the first nine minutes of the second half, draining seven straight threes at one point.

The Division III record was the first to fall, as Taylor reached 91 points on a 25-footer from the left wing with 11:14 to

Record-setting system

The three-pointer is the shot of choice at Grinnell and the four guys who don't shoot crash the boards.

- The Pioneers also press relentlessly on defence, forcing turnovers and quicker shots from opponents.

- The style also demands fresh legs and the Pioneers typically substitute every 60 seconds of so.

go. He cracked 100 on a layup less than three minutes later, and with 4:42 to go he drained yet another three to pass the NCAA record of 113 set by Rio Grande's Bevo Francis against Hillsdale in 1954.

Taylor made 27 of 71 three-pointers and was 52 of 108 overall. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

L.A. acting job costs Evans \$5K

Brooklyn Nets forward Reggie Evans has become the first player to be fined for flopping by the NBA, penalized \$5,000 US for a second offence.

Evans was punished after exaggerating light contact from the Lakers' Metta World Peace in Los Angeles on Tuesday night, nearly crashing into a referee standing along the sideline a few feet away.

Evans had received a warning for going down with little or no contact while battling for a rebound against Boston on Nov. 15.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Nets forward Reggie Evans
GETTY IMAGES FILE

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NBA**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

	W	L	Pct	GB	NBA LEADERS SCORING AVERAGE						
	G	FG	FT	PTS	Avg	Bryant, LAL	Durant, Okl	James, Mia	Harden, Hou	Anthony, NYK	Irving, Cle
New York	8	1	.889	—	26.3	11	102	67	289	26.3	10
Miami	8	3	.727	1	24.5	11	93	69	270	24.5	9
Milwaukee	6	3	.667	2	24.5	11	108	39	269	24.5	11
Brooklyn	6	3	.667	2	24.5	11	83	82	266	24.2	11
Philadelphia	7	5	.583	2 1/2	24.5	9	79	47	218	24.0	9
Charlotte	5	4	.556	3	24.2	10	82	47	229	22.9	10
Atlanta	5	4	.556	3	24.2	12	88	46	261	21.8	12
Boston	6	5	.545	3	24.0	9	74	37	193	21.4	9
Chicago	5	5	.500	3 1/2	20.0	10	84	43	211	21.1	10
Indiana	5	7	.417	4 1/2	20.0	10	72	33	208	20.8	10
Orlando	4	7	.364	5	20.5	11	81	50	226	20.5	11
Toronto	3	8	.273	6	20.5	11	81	61	223	20.3	11
Cleveland	3	8	.273	6	20.5	10	64	46	197	19.7	10
Detroit	2	10	.167	7 1/2	20.0	10	77	36	200	20.0	10
Washington	0	9	.000	8	20.0	10	79	47	218	21.8	10

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB							
L.A. Clippers	8	2	.800	—							
Memphis	8	2	.800	—							
San Antonio	8	3	.727	1/2							
Oklahoma City	8	3	.727	1/2							
Minnesota	5	4	.556	2 1/2							
L.A. Lakers	6	5	.545	2 1/2							
Golden State	6	5	.545	2 1/2							
Utah	6	6	.500	3							
Dallas	6	6	.500	3							
Portland	5	5	.500	3							
Denver	5	6	.455	3 1/2							
Houston	4	7	.364	4 1/2							
Phoenix	4	7	.364	4 1/2							
New Orleans	3	6	.333	4 1/2							
Sacramento	2	8	.200	6							

Division leaders ranked in top four positions with the best eight teams qualifying for playoffs

Wednesday's results

New Orleans at Indiana

Cleveland 92 Philadelphia 83

Orlando 90 Detroit 74

Toronto at Charlotte

San Antonio at Boston

Milwaukee at Miami

L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City

Washington at Atlanta

Chicago at Houston

Denver at Minnesota

New York at Dallas

Portland at Phoenix

L.A. Lakers at Sacramento

Brooklyn at Golden State

Tuesday's results

Philadelphia 106 Toronto 98

New York 102 New Orleans 80

L.A. Lakers 95 Brooklyn 90

Friday's game — All Times Eastern

Cleveland at Orlando, 7 p.m.

Atlanta at Charlotte, 7 p.m.

Oklahoma City at Boston, 7:30 p.m.

L.A. Clippers at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.

Toronto at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.

San Antonio at Indiana, 8 p.m.

New York at Houston, 8 p.m.

L.A. Lakers at Memphis, 8 p.m.

Golden State at Denver, 8 p.m.

Sacramento at Utah, 9 p.m.

New Orleans at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Minnesota at Portland, 10 p.m.

Saturday, November 24

Oklahoma City at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

L.A. Clippers at Atlanta, 7 p.m.

Charlotte at Washington, 7 p.m.

Cleveland at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

L.A. Lakers at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Chicago at Milwaukee, 9 p.m.

Utah at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

Minnesota at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

36

SPORTS

NBA

TRANSACTIONS

MLB**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Agreed to terms with OF Dewayne Wise on a one-year contract.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Agreed to terms with RHP Ricardo Nanita, 2B Jim Negrych, RHP Neil Wagner and LHP Alex Hinshaw on minor league contracts.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Selected the contracts of RHP Charles Brewer, RHP Chase Anderson, LHP Eury de la Rosa, RHP Eric Smith and OF Kevin Braxton from Reno (PCL).

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Agreed to terms with RHP Brooks Brown, RHP Erik Cordier, OF Felix Pie, RHP David Bromberg, RHP Luis Sanz and INF Alex Valdez on minor league contracts.

NBA**BOSTON CELTICS** — Waived C Darko Milicic.**NFL**

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Released LB Jamaal Westerman and RB Jared Crank. Activated RB Beanie Wells from injured reserve.

BUFFALO BILLS — Released C Reggie Stephens from the practice squad. Signed LB Greg Lloyd to the practice squad.

CHICAGO BEARS — Placed QB Chilo Rachal on the reserve/left squad list. Signed OL James Brown from the practice squad.

DENVER BRONCOS — Placed RB Willis McGahee on recallable injured reserve.

DETROIT LIONS — Released DT Jimmy Saddler-McQueen from the practice squad. Signed G Justin Boren to the practice squad.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Released G Justin Anderson. Released RB Alvester Alexander from the practice squad. Signed DB Marshay Green to the practice squad.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Placed QB Blaine Gabbert and WR Laurent Robinson on injured reserve. Signed QB Jordan Palmer.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Signed PK Matt Szymanski to the practice squad.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Released WR Jabar Gaffney. Signed G Ryan Durand. Claimed TE Kyle Miller off waivers from Indianapolis.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Named Jonathan Wilf vice president of strategic planning and business initiatives.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Released WR Greg Camarillo. Signed T Will Robinson.

OAKLAND RAIDERS — Released LB Aaron Curry.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released RB Baron Batch and LB Marshall McFadden. Signed QB Brian Hoyer.

ST. LOUIS RAMS — Released FB Brit Miller.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS — Released DE Logan Harrell from the practice squad.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Signed WR Charly Martin from the practice squad and WR Corbin Louks to the practice squad.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Released LB Joe Holland from the practice squad.

ATLANTA —

CINCINNATI —

DETROIT —

GREEN BAY —

HOUSTON —

INDIANAPOLIS —

KANSAS CITY —

MICHIGAN —

MINNESOTA —

NEW ENGLAND —

NEW YORK —

NEW YORK METS —

NEW YORK YANKEES —

NASHVILLE —

NEVADA —

NEW YORK BRAVES —

NEW YORK METS —

Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

Flattery will come easily to you today but you must use it with care. Your way with words may be able to win others over to your side but do you really want everyone knowing what you are up to? Think about it.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

If you need to connect with someone you have drifted apart from recently, now is the time to make your move. Don't wait for them to approach you, pick up the phone or knock on their door and say "Hi!"

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You have been worrying for no good reason and what takes place over the next few days will remind you just how fortunate you truly are. Once your mind is in a better place, your physical health will improve as well.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Use your imagination and follow your dream, wherever it might lead. Some people may say you have taken leave of your senses, but more likely the opposite is true: You have at last found your true calling.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

The Sun in Sagittarius gives you bags of self-confidence and you must use it today to help a loved one or friend get over some kind of loss or trauma. The best way to do that is to make them laugh.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Don't try to keep your feelings to yourself. Let the whole world know why you are so full of love and laughter. Most likely it's because you have finally realized that life is supposed to be enjoyed, not dreaded.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

There is someone in your life you need to pay a lot more attention to. You know who this someone is and you know it is your responsibility to reach out to them. So what are you waiting for? Do it now.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

The Sun may have moved out of your birth sign but today Venus, planet of emotional and material values, moves in, which is not a bad swap. Who and what do you truly value? Make sure you don't lose them.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You feel good about yourself now but how do you feel about other people? You may have reason to believe that certain individuals don't deserve your friendship, but why make an issue of it? Forgive, forget and move on.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Give your mind and your body a rest today, and let others do the heavy lifting for a change. Friendships are under excellent stars now, so why not have fun with your friends? Laughter is always the best medicine.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Someone will ask you for advice today and you will be happy to give it, but do they really want to know the truth? If what you have to tell them is not what they want to hear, it could cause a falling out.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

Steer clear of subjects and situations that could lead to conflict. That is especially important on the work front where, if you speak your mind, you could make a powerful enemy. Not everyone wants to hear the truth. **SALLY BROMPTON**

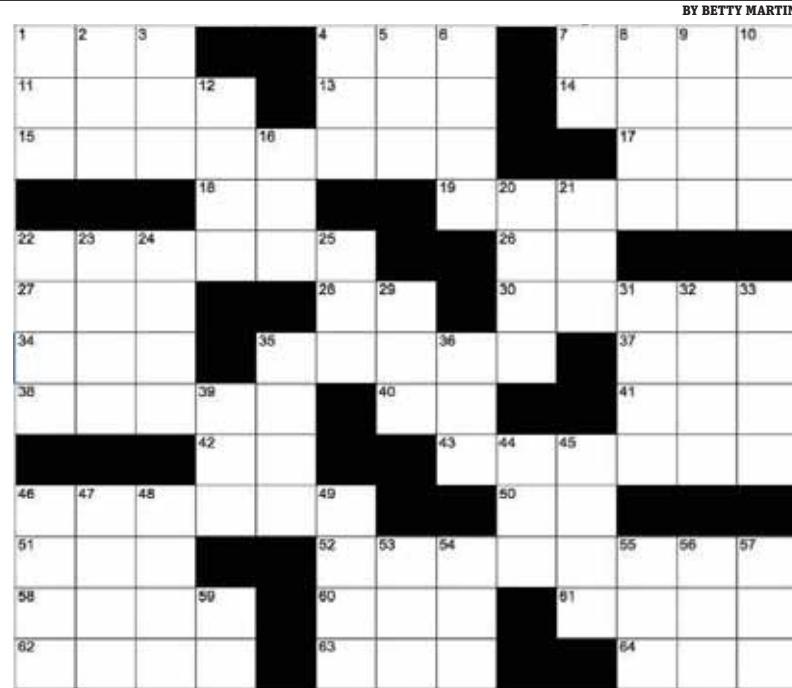
Crossword

Across

1. Children's game
4. Decide on
7. Rich tasty dinner
11. Small inlets
13. Prefix meaning recent
14. Roof gutter
15. Spat
17. Cat or dog
18. Egyptian Sun God
19. Cattle
22. Moves slightly
26. Bible pt.
27. Danson of Cheers
28. Mate for Ma
30. Highway exits
34. Spanish cheer
35. AM or FM instrument
37. Served at Archie Bunker's Place
38. Fridge maker
40. Type measure
41. Meadow
42. Roman two
43. Basement
46. Fashion designer McCartney
50. First two vowels in a sequence
51. Blue Bloods actor Selleck
52. Microbes
58. Ticklish muppet
60. Pitcher's stat.
61. Vampire novelist: Anne —
62. Cruel or nasty
63. Served with crumpets
64. Actor James Van — Beek

Down

1. —la la
2. Atmosphere
3. Joke
4. —Tree Hill
5. Writing implement



- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 6. Children | 25. Health club | 48. Stone or Watson |
| 7. Wind direction (abbr.) | 29. Summer refreshment | 49. Help in a robbery |
| 8. Pre-record | 31. Teen hangout | 53. — You Afraid of the Dark? |
| 9. For always | 32. Beg | 54. Canadian Automobile Association (abbr.) |
| 10. Dampens | 33. Brand | 55. Toss out |
| 12. Ride the waves | 35. Method of transport | 56. Drink cooler |
| 16. Gymnastics equipment | 36. Company abbr. | 57. Lingus |
| 20. Bull | 39. Nothing | 59. "— Golden Pond" |
| 21. Airport info. | 44. Sit down to a meal | |
| 22. Portico | 45. Ogle | |
| 23. Rudder | 46. Flower part | |
| 24. Brainstorm | 47. Entice | |

Today



10°/1°
Partly cloudy

Friday

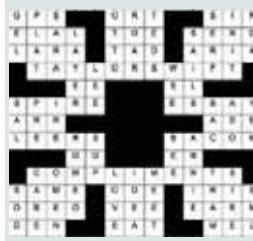


90%

Know what the weather
will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.

TWN incorporates MSC data

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers
at metronews.ca/
answers.



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	2	8	4	7	3	9	5	6
6	9	3	8	1	5	2	4	7
5	7	4	6	2	9	8	1	3
2	5	9	1	4	6	7	3	8
4	8	7	5	3	2	6	9	1
3	6	1	7	9	8	5	2	4
7	1	5	9	6	4	3	6	2
8	4	2	3	8	7	1	6	5
9	3	6	2	5	1	4	7	9

	4	6	1	9
7			5	3
6		8		7
5		9	2	
	2	7		
7	3		8	
3		9		1
5	9			4
7	8	1	9	

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*Example is for illustrative purposes only.

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